

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for testing a network service, the method comprising:
2 intercepting a message sent by a network service under test and directed to
3 another network service;
4 determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network
5 service that emulates operation of the other network service; and
6 redirecting the message to the mock network service if it is determined that the
7 message should be so redirected.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises
2 intercepting a request that is related to a request sent to the network service under test
3 from a mock client.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises
2 intercepting the message using a network proxy.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises
2 intercepting the message using a data handler.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the message
2 should be redirected to a mock network service comprises identifying a network
3 address to which the message is directed.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether the message
2 should be redirected to a mock network service further comprises searching for the
3 network address in a redirection database.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein redirecting the message to the mock
2 network service comprises redirecting the message to a network address associated
3 with the network address searched for in the redirection database.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from a
2 mock network service and transmitting the response to the network service under test.

1 9. A system for testing a network service, the system comprising:
2 means for intercepting a message transmitted by a local network service under
3 test and intended for receipt by an external network service;
4 means for determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock
5 network service that emulates operation of the external network service; and
6 means for redirecting the message to the mock network service.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for intercepting a message
2 comprise a network proxy.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for intercepting a message
2 comprise a data handler.

1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining whether the
2 message should be redirected to a mock network service comprise a redirection
3 database.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the redirection database comprises a
2 table that forms part of a redirection service.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the table associates network addresses
2 of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the table associates universal resource
2 locators (URLs) of external network services to universal resource locators (URLs) of
3 mock network services.

1 16. The system of claim 9, further comprising means for receiving a
2 response from a mock network service and means for transmitting the response to the
3 network service under test.

1 17. A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system
2 comprising:

3 logic configured to intercept messages transmitted by a network service under
4 test and intended for external network services;

5 logic configured to determine whether the messages should be redirected to
6 mock network services that emulate operation of the external network services; and

7 logic configured to redirect the messages to the mock network services.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to intercept
2 comprises a network proxy.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to intercept
2 comprises a data handler.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to determine
2 comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of external
3 network services to network addresses of mock network services.

1 21. A redirector for use in testing a network service, the redirector being
2 configured to:

3 receive a message transmitted by a network service under test and intended for
4 an external network service;

5 determine whether the message should be redirected to a mock network
6 service that emulates operation of the external network service; and

7 redirect the message to the mock network service if the message is determined
8 to be so redirected.

1 22. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a network
2 proxy.

1 23. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a data
2 handler.

1 24. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a
2 redirection database that associates network addresses of external network services to
3 network addresses of mock network services.

1 25. A network proxy stored on a computer-readable medium, the network
2 proxy comprising:

3 logic configured to intercept a message transmitted by a network service under
4 test and intended for an external network service;

5 logic configured to determine whether the message should be redirected to a
6 mock network service that emulates operation of the external network service; and

7 logic configured to redirect the message to the mock network service.

1 26. The network proxy of claim 25, wherein the logic configured to
2 intercept a message comprises logic configured to intercept extensible markup
3 language (XML) messages wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP)
4 envelopes.

1 27. The network proxy of claim 25, wherein the logic configured to
2 determine comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of
3 external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

1 28. A data handler stored on a computer-readable medium and configured
2 for integration with a network service, the data handler comprising:
3 logic configured to intercept messages transmitted by the network service that
4 are intended for external network services;
5 logic configured to determine whether the messages should be redirected to
6 one or more mock network services that emulate operation of the external network
7 services; and
8 logic configured to redirect the messages to the one or more mock network
9 services.

1 29. The data handler of claim 28, wherein the data handler comprises a
2 simple object access protocol (SOAP) message handler, and the logic configured to
3 intercept messages comprises logic configured to intercept extensible markup
4 language (XML) messages wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP)
5 envelopes.

1 30. The data handler of claim 28, wherein the logic configured to
2 determine comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of
3 external network services to network addresses of mock network services.